

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brett Valiquet on 04/07/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 62, 63 and 70 are replaced by the following -

Claim 62. A method for handling of an endless belt for an electrophotographic printer or copier wherein the endless belt is to be borne with aid of a first, a second, and a third cylindrical body during mounting of the belt into said printer or copier comprising the steps of inserting the first cylindrical body through a loop of the endless belt; arranging the second cylindrical body outside of the loop of the endless belt and parallel to the first cylindrical body; winding the endless belt around the first and second cylindrical bodies to form a wound unit and inserting the third cylindrical body through the loop at a free end of the endless belt before or during the winding of the first and the second cylindrical bodies with the endless belt; placing the three cylindrical bodies with the wound unit in a container with said wound unit resting on a continuous, smooth, sliding support surface structure in the container; and extracting the endless belt from the container such that as the third cylindrical body is being raised upwardly from the

Art Unit: 2852

container said wound unit unwinds while ends of said first and second cylindrical bodies are, being supported by, and slide along said support surface structure.

Claim 63. The method of claim 62 that support surface structure comprises first and second spaced apart support surfaces, said first and second cylindrical bodies have as said ends respective first and second opposite ends, and the first ends of the first and second cylindrical bodies resting on and sliding along the first support surface during said unwinding of the wound unit and the second ends of the first and second cylindrical bodies resting on and sliding along the second support surface during said unwinding of the wound unit.

Claim 70. A container system for handling an endless belt, comprising: a container; in said container an endless belt with first and third cylindrical bodies inserted in the belt and a second cylindrical body outside of the belt, and said first and second bodies having the belt wound there-around to form a wound unit; and said container having a continuous, smooth, sliding support surface structure supporting said wound unit, said support surface structure being shaped such that when the third cylindrical body is pulled upwardly during removal from said container ends of said first and second cylindrical bodies of said wound unit rests on, is supported by, and slide along said support structure surface during unwinding of said wound unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest "the wound unit in a container with said wound unit resting on

Art Unit: 2852

a continuous, smooth, sliding support surface structure in the container; and extracting the endless belt from the container such that as the third cylindrical body is being raised upwardly from the container said wound unit unwinds while ends of said first and second cylindrical bodies are, being supported by, and slide along said support surface structure” as set forth in Claims 72 and 70 in combination with the remaining.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROY YI whose telephone number is (571)270-7804. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2852

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ROY YI/
Examiner, Art Unit 2852

/David M Gray/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 2852